

### **REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks. Applicants amend claim 1, 12, and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer.

#### **Rejection of Claims 1-4 and 7-12 Under 35 U.S.C. §101**

The office action rejects claims 1-4 and 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants amend claim 1 to recite a method causing a computing device to perform certain steps. Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment ties the claim to a statutory category, i.e. a particular apparatus in the form of a computing device. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

#### **Rejection of Claims 1, 7-8, 11-12, 21, 27-28 and 31-32 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 7-8, 11-12, 21, 27-28 and 31-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Devine et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0217190) (“Devine et al.”) in view of Karr et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0066051) (“Karr et al.”) and Sinai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,143,042) (“Sinai et al.”). Applicants amend claim 1 to further recite that a name of at least one state transition in the higher level representation includes a suffix associated with a special meaning. The specification provides support for this amendment at paragraphs [0022]-[0024]. Applicants submit that the proposed combination of references does not teach or suggest this limitation.

The specification provides non-limiting, but illustrative, examples of suffixes associated with special meanings. For example, at paragraph [0023], the first prompt is ‘llbean\_how\_may\_I\_help\_you\out’. The ‘\out’ suffix indicates that this is a prompt and the name of the prompt is ‘llbean\_how\_may\_I\_help\_you’. Similarly, ‘item\_number\in’ represents

the user intent (or category) to place an order by item number, and ‘\in’ is the suffix. Paragraph [0024] provides yet other exemplary suffixes and meanings. In contrast to what is recited in claim 1, neither Devine et al. nor Sinai et al. teach such suffixes. For example, Devine et al. at paragraph [0048] teach that states can include state names, but only as defined as a constant in a header file. The constant definition of state names in a header file means that all state names are the same and do not have suffixes associated with a special meaning. Further, Devine et al. at paragraph [0009] teach using function names in a graphical source file, but the function names are likewise constant. If a function name in a graphical source file is changed (i.e. if a suffix is added to the function name), the function name becomes meaningless because it is not associated with a real function. Therefore, Devine et al. fail to teach or suggest that a name of at least one state transition in the higher level representation includes a suffix associated with a special meaning. Similarly, FIG. 6 of Sinai et al. shows that Speech Object names are fixed and do not include any suffixes. For example, Sinai et al. teach names such as “SOAirport”, “SODate”, and “SOSTreetNumber” as fixed names for specific speech objects. Sinai et al., col. 12, line 44 – col. 13, line 23.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over the proposed combination of references. Applicants similarly amend claim 21 and further submit that claim 21 and its dependent claims are also patentable over the proposed combination of references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

**Rejection of Claims 2-3, 5, 22-23 and 25 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

The Office Action rejects claims 2-3, 5, 22-23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Devine et al. in view of Karr et al. and Sinai et al. and further in view of Mital

et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,184,967) ("Mital et al."). Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully submit that claims 2-3, 5, 22-23 and 25 are patentable over the cited references inasmuch as they depend from patentable base claims and recite additional limitations therefrom.

**Rejection of Claims 4, 6, 9-10, 24, 26 and 29-30 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

The Office Action rejects claims 4, 6, 9-10, 24, 26 and 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Devine et al. in view of Karr et al. and Sinai et al. and further in view of Mital et al. and Wallace (U.S. Patent No. 4,686,623) ("Wallace"). Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully submit that claims 2-3, 5, 22-23 and 25 are patentable over the cited references inasmuch as they depend from patentable base claims and recite additional limitations therefrom.

**CONCLUSION**

Having addressed all rejections and objections, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If necessary, the Commissioner for Patents is authorized to charge or credit the **Novak, Druce & Quigg, LLP, Account No. 14-1437** for any deficiency or overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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